

This message is to inform you that today Region 10 transmitted a preliminary draft version of the Columbia/Snake River Mainstem Temperature TMDL to our State and Tribal partners for review. It was distributed to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Washington Department of Ecology, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians. It has not been distributed to the public or any entities other than those five agencies. These five agencies all have jurisdiction over waters covered by the TMDL and have worked very closely with us in its development.

In October of 2000, Region 10 entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Washington Department of Ecology to develop TMDLs for Total Dissolved Gas and Temperature for the main stems of the Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers. The states requested that EPA take the lead in developing the temperature TMDL. Oregon and Washington requested by letter that EPA establish the TMDL for waters within the jurisdiction of those two states. At the present time, Idaho plans to establish the TMDL developed by EPA for waters within its jurisdiction. Since January, 2001, Region 10 and the three states have worked in close coordination with the two tribes to develop this temperature.

We have worked very hard to involve the public in development of this TMDL. To date we have held six public workshops across the three states. We have developed a website and numerous fact sheets to keep the public informed. We have held many individual meetings with interests groups, such as the Pulp and Paper Industry, Irrigation Districts, and Public Utility Districts. We have met many times with the Federal Action Agencies for the Columbia River Federal Power System and in fact they participate in our State/Tribal steering committee meetings for the TMDL. We are working closely with the National Marine Fisheries Service for ESA consultation purposes and they also participate in our steering committee meetings. Finally, we have briefed a number of the Congressional Delegations during the past year and a half on the TMDL.

The preliminary draft that we sent to our state and tribal partners was the first version of the TMDL completed on paper. It will doubtless undergo many changes before it is shared with the public. It could possibly be released to the public by the states or tribes because they generally have fairly liberal FOIA type requirements. Such a release could cause headlines and generate a lot of Congressional interest.

Rick Parkin is our technical lead on development of the TMDL. He can be reached at (206) 553-8574. Also feel free to call me at (206) 553-4198 to discuss the TMDL.

A list of key dates in our somewhat tentative schedule for the TMDL follows.

## **Key Dates for Columbia/Snake Temperature TMDL**

As of July 15, 2002

<b>July 2001</b>	<b>Workshops on Water Quality Modeling</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Spokane, Washington</li><li>- Portland, Oregon</li></ul>
<b>October 2001</b>	<b>Workshops on Temperature Problem Assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Pasco, Washington</li><li>- Lewiston, Idaho</li></ul>
<b>March 2002</b>	<b>Workshops on Preliminary Load Capacity and Allocations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Vancouver, Washington</li><li>- Toppenish, Washington</li></ul>
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>Workshops on Preliminary Draft TMDL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Idaho</li><li>- Oregon</li><li>- Washington</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Consultation and coordination meeting with Tribes as appropriate</li><li>· Meetings with other entities, such as pulp and paper and PUDs on request</li></ul>	
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>Draft Preliminary TMDL issued to the public</b>
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>Workshops in OR, ID and WA on Draft Preliminary TMDL</b>
<b>October 2002</b>	<b>Draft TMDL issued by EPA and Idaho</b>
<b>November/December 2002/ January 2003</b>	<b>90 day comment period formal public hearings</b>
<b>February/March/April 2003</b>	<b>Respond to comments</b>
<b>May 2002</b>	<b>Final Temperature TMDL</b>